



Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District
43301 Division Street, Suite 206
Lancaster, CA 93535
(661) 723-8070

MEDIA RELEASE

PAGE ONE OF TWO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 10, 2006

For further information contact:

Bret Banks, Operations Manager

(661) 723-8070

Violette Roberts, Community Relations & Education Manager

(760) 245-1661, ext. 6104

WILLIAM J. "PETE" KNIGHT MEMORIAL AIRE AWARD NOMINATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

Lancaster -- The Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District (AVAQMD) is now soliciting nominations for its 2005/2006 William J. "Pete" Knight Memorial Achievement in Reducing Emissions (AIRE) Awards. Eligible candidates include local businesses, industries, schools, agencies, organizations and individuals who have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to clean air through the development of voluntary air pollution reduction and/or prevention programs.

Nominated entities/projects must be located within the AVAQMD's jurisdictional boundaries, and nominated individuals must reside within the District's boundaries. Candidates may be self-nominated or nominated by a second party.

In recognition of sponsoring the legislation that created the Antelope Valley Air Pollution Control District, then upgraded it to an independent air quality management district, the

PAGE TWO OF TWO

AVAQMD's Governing Board renamed the annual AIRE Awards in memory of the late Senator William J. "Pete" Knight.

In 2005, the late Senator – who has been referred to as the "Father of the AVAQMD" – was posthumously presented with a special AIRE Award in recognition of introducing Assembly Bill 2666 in 1997, which created a separate, locally-controlled air district for the Antelope Valley, and emancipated local businesses from costly and stifling regulations designed for the polluted, urban Los Angeles basin. Subsequently, the AVAQMD Governing Board also voted to rename the AVAQMD's top honor after the renowned aviation pioneer and longtime local legislator.

Nominations for the 2005/2006 awards must be postmarked or received at AVAQMD offices by Thursday, August 10 at 5:00 P.M. The AIRE Awards will be presented during National Pollution Prevention Week, September 17 through 23, 2006. The Nomination Packet is available online at **www.avaqmd.ca.gov**, or by calling the AVAQMD at (661) 723-8070.